

Teen-age girl found slain

DEC 24 1981

The body of a McClymonds High School honor student was found today in a West Oakland parking lot.

The girl, Ameenah Scott, 16, appeared to have been fatally stabbed, police said.

Her body was found just before 8 a.m. in a parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park.

Scott, the oldest of four chil-

dren and a junior at McClymonds, lived in the nearby Acorn housing project, according to police.

Homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn said the teen-ager was last seen about 8 p.m. Wednesday walking toward her home. Investigators do not have any motive for the killing, Hahn said.

It was Oakland's 130th homicide of 1981.

Mystery murder victim was quiet, studious girl

By Brenda Payton
Tribune Staff Writer

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The last time Mercedes Scott saw her 16-year-old daughter, Ameenah assured her mother not to worry about her, she was just going for a walk and no harm would come to her.

"She said, 'You worry about me too much. I know everyone around here. No one will hurt me,'" Mrs. Scott recalled.

Ameenah never returned.

The next day, the morning of Christmas Eve, Ameenah Scott's

body was found in the parking lot near Lowell Junior High School. She had been stabbed to death. Her funeral was held today at C.P. Bannon Mortuary.

From the description of family and friends, she was the least likely person to die violently. She was quiet, studious, responsible, and a loner.

An honor student at McClymonds High School, Ameenah Scott was particularly interested in mathematics and had plans to

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and said she was at her girl-

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go into computer sciences.

"I got her a big college math book for Christmas," Mrs. Scott said.

Ameenah Scott, or "Meenah" as she was called by friends, was also fearless.

"She never believed that anything could harm her. She believed that she would live forever. She wasn't afraid of anything," her mother said.

"The funny thing is that we moved out here from New York City seven years ago to get away from the crime," Mrs. Scott continued. "We thought we were running away from it when we came here and we ran right into it."

Mrs. Scott was calm as she talked about her daughter's life and death. She and her husband, David, a bus driver for AC Transit, and their three other children, ages 15, 13 and 9, live in West Oakland.

The night Ameenah Scott disappeared, she, her best girlfriend and her younger sister were all at home talking and wrapping Christmas gifts with her mother. Ameenah had just returned from

having her braces removed by the orthodontist.

"We were all here," said Mrs. Scott, drinking a cup of herbal tea. "Her friend went home, and then about 8:30 p.m. Meenah said she was going out for a walk. I asked her where she was going, who she was going with. You know how teen-agers are, she told me not to worry, she knew everyone in the neighborhood and no one would hurt her."

From there the story is shrouded in mystery. About two hours later Ameenah called her mother and said she was at her girlfriend's house and asked permission to stay a few more minutes. According to her mother, she sounded normal.

Later Mrs. Scott discovered that she never went to her friend's house.

"That was so uncharacteristic of Meenah," Mrs. Scott said.

According to the police estimate, she was killed sometime between that telephone call and midnight.

The police investigation continues. Although investigators have some leads, Sgt. James Hahn said they are still trying to determine

the motive for the slaying. The results of a test that will indicate whether the teen-ager was sexually assaulted are still pending.

Mrs. Scott interrupts the interview to talk to one of her children.

"I know how you feel, honey. It's hard for all of us. Death affects everyone differently. But I want you to calm yourself now. It's very important, very important that we all do that now."

Settling back in her seat, she remarked on how difficult it is

for the family to accept Ameenah's death.

"I can't even think of my own sadness. I have to keep everyone else together," she said.

Each of the Scott children has an Arabic name.

"We named them for what they meant to us," Mrs. Scott explained. Ameenah means "most precious" and her middle name, Nafeesah, means "most valuable."

"I never had any problems with Meenah. She liked to stay in

the house most of the time, watching T.V. or reading. She seemed to like being at home by herself," Mrs. Scott said, occasionally using the present tense when referring to her daughter. "She liked animals and she loved snakes. She had a snake and two mynah birds. At one time she wanted to be a vet. And she was deeply into God. She believed God is within each of us; that's our family belief. She had the Lord's Prayer and religious songs posted right near her bed."

Oakland police seek honor student's killer

By Lloyd Boles
Tribune Staff Writer

DEC 25 1981

Two Oakland police homicide investigators, outraged at the senseless slaying of McClymonds High School honor student Ameenah Scott, worked through most of Christmas Eve trying to find her killer.

"There's no reason for it, just no reason," Sgt. Dan Murray said.

Murray and partner Sgt. James Hahn left their family festivities to talk to people, and the night's work produced some leads.

"There's no drugs and no bad friends here," Murray said.

"We're dealing with a really nice girl, the daughter of fine parents, an honor student.

"There's no sense to it."

Ameenah, 16, friendly and outgoing, went to visit neighbors near her 10th Street home about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Her body was found in the parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park at 8 a.m. Thursday.

She had been stabbed several times, Murray said, and there are indications she fought for her life.

A medical examination will disclose whether she was sexually assaulted.

Ameenah was a junior at McClymonds, the oldest child in her family. She had two sisters and a brother.

Her parents, David and Mercedes Scott, were unable to discuss the tragedy.

Scott is an AC Transit bus driver. Ameenah is the city's 130th homicide victim of 1981.

She weighed 80 pounds and was 4 feet 8 inches tall.

She was alert, vibrant and friendly, her friends said Thursday, and her eyes sparkled with the innocence of youth.

She trusted people, too, they said.

■ ■ ■ OCT 25 1982

Ameenah Scott, 16, left her home in West Oakland last Dec. 23 at about 8:30 p.m., telling her mother she was going for a walk.

Her mother recalled later that when she told her daughter to be careful, Ameenah replied, 'You worry about me too much. I know everyone around here. No one will hurt me.' "

But someone did hurt her. Ameenah never returned from the walk. Her body was found the next day in the parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park. She had been stabbed to death.

Police had no motives and no leads then, and they still don't. The case remains open, but there are no suspects.

A quiet, friendly honor student at McClymonds High School, Ameenah was described by her mother as a sensitive, religious young woman who was essentially fearless.

"She believed she would live forever," Mercedes Scott recalled in an interview about a week after the slaying. "She wasn't afraid of anything."

The homicide investigators in the case, Sgt. Hahn and Sgt. Dan Murray, worked through the Christmas holiday to try to solve the murder, but came up dry.

"There's no drugs and no bad friends here," Murray said. "We're dealing with a really nice girl, the daughter of fine parents, an honor student."

"There's no sense to it."

Diploma awarded in dead teen's honor

By David Alcott
Tribune Staff Writer

JUN 15 1983

Ameeneh Nafeesah Roshima ~~Scott's~~ high school diploma was awarded to her mother Tuesday at McClymonds High School's 1983 graduation. It was to honor the memory of a young scholar whose promise was cut short by a senseless murder in 1981.

An honors student who had been taking college courses on the side since junior high,

Ameeneh Scott was ranked among the top five in her class when she died. Her 165 classmates — who received their degrees Tuesday — voted unanimously to award the honorary diploma to her mother, Mercedes Scott.

"She was very close to all of us," senior class counselor Johnny Lorigo told the graduates. "She was the epitome of a McClymonds student — determined, energetic, kind-

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The checks bear the word
shipment to the Navy in Oakla
government treasury checks
no assistance in recovering

hearted and very intelligent."

Ameeneh's mother responded simply, "I'm honored to be here." Her other daughters, Aisha, 16, and Saudah, 14, were by her side. All three smiled often when they recognized Ameeneh's close friends, who marched slowly past the family during the processional.

"The class felt very strongly about her," said McClymonds Principal Ralph S. Griffin, who explained it was the first honorary diploma the school awarded during his 14-year tenure.

Mrs. Scott, whose green eyes grew misty when asked what the diploma meant to her, said, "This shows that people do recognize her value, because she was very dedicated to her schoolwork. She had been taking courses in the summer at Cal State in Hayward since the seventh grade, and she worked very hard at it."

Lorigo said he proposed the honorary diploma and got unanimous approval from senior class students. Mrs. Scott agreed to receive the diploma on her daughter's behalf, but her husband was unable to attend.

"He wasn't for the idea at all,

- A speeding motorcyclist was
when he fell from his motorcy-

Cyclist Killed

especially with the killer running around loose," Mrs. Scott said. "It would have been too emotional."

She acknowledged the family moved to Oakland in 1976 from New York City to escape urban violence, only to meet tragedy here on Dec. 23, 1981.

Ameeneh, a 4'8" 80-pound junior, had finished wrapping Christmas presents that evening and left her 10th Street home in West Oakland at about 8:30 p.m. to take a walk. Her stabbed body was found at 8 a.m. the next morning in a parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park.

Her last words to her mother were, "Don't worry. Nobody would hurt me."

"There still are no definite leads in the case," Mrs. Scott said Tuesday. She invited the homicide investigator, Sgt. Jim Hahn, to attend the ceremony. Hahn and other officers became personally involved in the case because of what they called the "senselessness" of the killing, and they worked through the holidays in 1981 searching for witnesses.

A reward fund is still open in the victim's name at American Savings in Oakland.